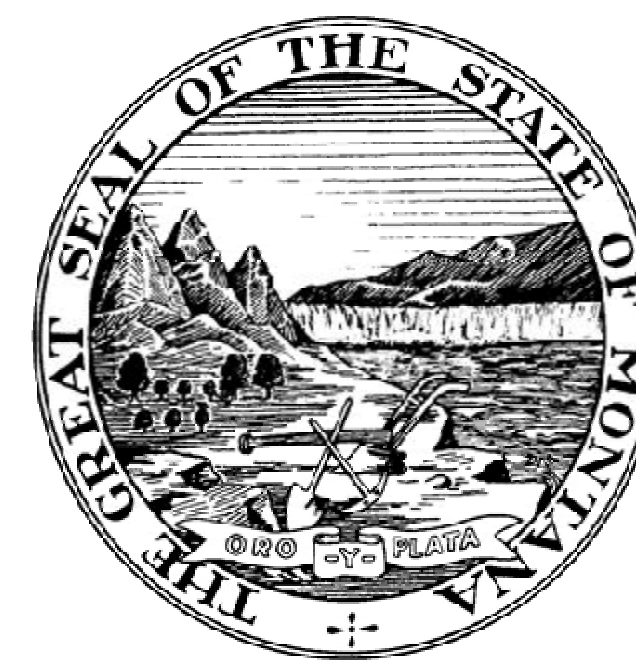


# GOVERNOR'S OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS



**THE OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS** was established in 1951 by the Montana legislature to facilitate effective tribal-state communications with special attention to the discussion and resolution of issues and concerns that Indian tribes face in regard to their unique political status with the federal government, and as full citizens of the state of Montana. The Office of Indian Affairs serves the tribal-state relationship as a liaison in government-to-government relations with the purpose of promoting economic development, environmental protection, education, support for social services, and enduring good will.

**THE STATE OF MONTANA** created the Office of Indian Affairs to serve both tribal and state governments in their government-to-government relationships designed to recognize the rights, duties, and privileges of full citizenship that Indians are entitled to as citizens of this state.

**THE COORDINATOR OF INDIAN AFFAIRS** is tasked with duties that reflect the state's recognition that a sizable percentage of the citizens of Montana are American Indian and unique economic challenges and social significance currently exist. The duties of the Coordinator are to provide state governmental services to Indian people on and off their reservations which include the following:

- visit tribal governments regularly and serve as a liaison or representative at their request for both public and private purposes;
- assess tribal concerns and interests and report these concerns to the Governor's cabinet;
- meet with executive branch directors on issues pertinent to Indian citizens, tribes, and on issues that arise between state agency personnel or programs and tribal interests;
- advise the legislative and executive branches of the state of Montana on problems faced by Montana's Indians and make recommendations for the alleviation of those problems and issues;
- actively organize collaborative efforts between tribal-state entities through compacts and other cooperative agreements; and
- seek consensus among tribes on shared goals and principles while also serving the Montana congressional delegation as an adviser and intermediary in the field of Indian Affairs.

## TRIBAL NATIONS OF MONTANA

### BLACKFEET RESERVATION

Blackfeet Tribe

### FLATHEAD RESERVATION

Confederated Salish & Kootenai Tribes

### CROW RESERVATION

Crow Tribe

### NORTHERN CHEYENNE RESERVATION

Northern Cheyenne Tribe

### FORT BELKNAP RESERVATION

Assiniboine & Gros Ventre Tribes

### ROCKY BOY 'S RESERVATION

Chippewa Cree Tribe

### FORT PECK RESERVATION

Assiniboine & Sioux Tribes

### LITTLE SHELL TRIBE OF CHIPPEWA INDIANS

State of Montana recognized

## COORDINATOR OF INDIAN AFFAIRS

### MEMBERSHIP ON BOARDS & COUNCILS:

American Indian Monument & Tribal Flag Circle Advisory Council  
Interagency Coordinating Council for State Prevention Programs  
State-Tribal Economic Development Commission  
Board of Veterans Affairs  
Advisory group on naming sites and geographical features

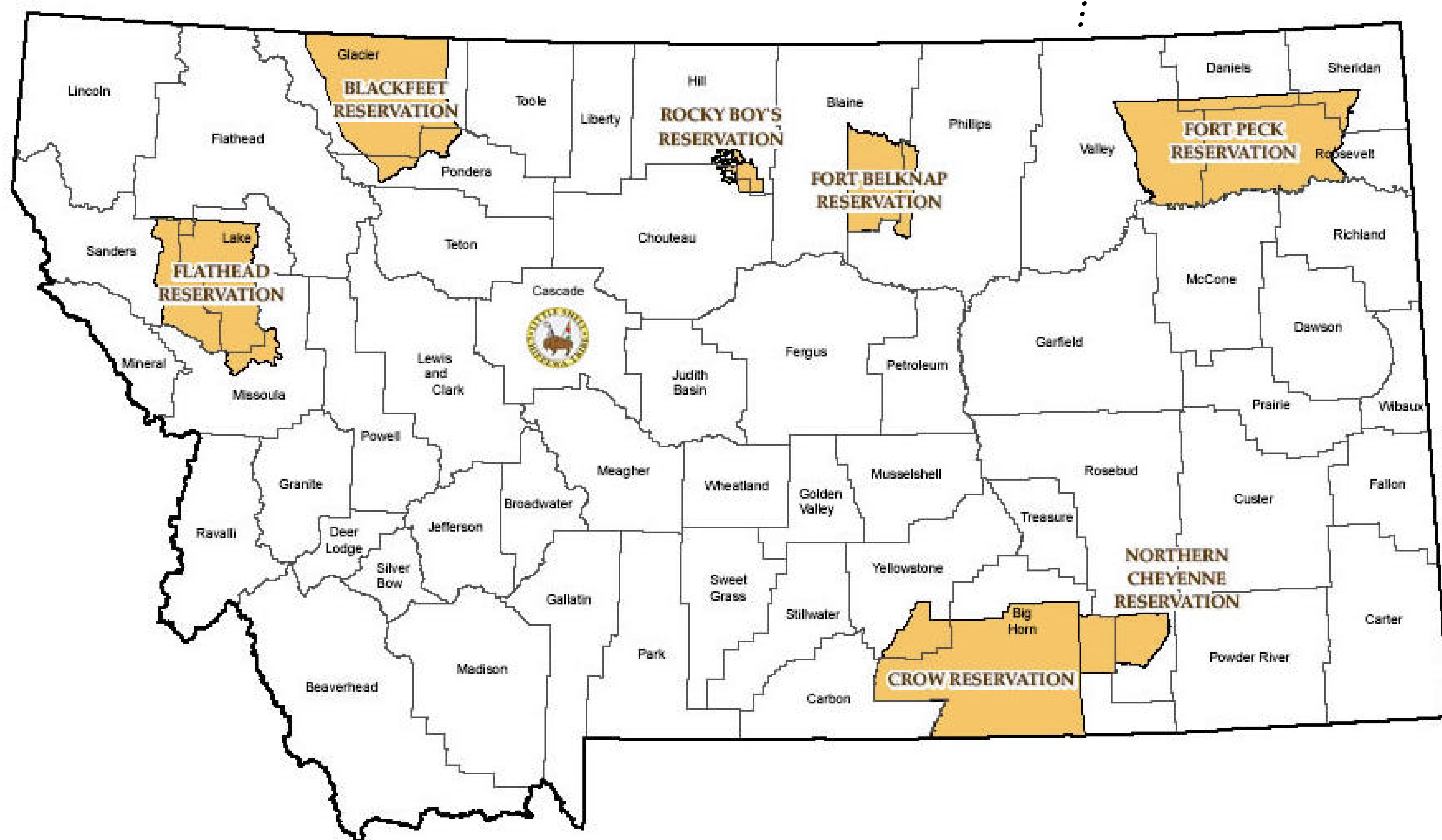
## REPORTS & ANNUAL EVENTS PREPARED

### BY THE GOVERNOR 'S OFFICE & OFFICE OF INDIAN AFFAIRS:

Tribal Relations Report  
Tribal Relations Training  
Tribal Leaders Summit  
Quarterly visits with Tribal Nations

The American Indian population in Montana is estimated at 59,500 or 6.3% of the total state population.

Source: U.S. Census Bureau, 2000



## Meet the Office of Indian Affairs Staff!



JENNIFER PEREZ COLE  
Coordinator of Indian Affairs  
(406) 444-3713  
jpc@mt.gov

### Governor's Office of Indian Affairs

1301 E. 6th Avenue  
PO Box 200801  
Helena, MT 59620-0801  
Phone: (406) 444-3702  
Fax: (406) 444-1350

<http://www.tribalnations.mt.gov>



BILLIE RUSEK  
Administrative Officer  
(406) 444-3702  
brusek@mt.gov